

* - Para 2 S. SYMINGTON

Pentagon Slants Data, Symington

By John G. Norris
Staff Reporter

Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) charged the Pentagon yesterday with withholding non-security information "for public relations purposes" and publishing incorrect data about Russian missiles.

He told the Senate that Defense Department officials had edited the transcript of a Senate hearing after it already had been reviewed for security and the censored material involved "broad policy problems," the American people "have the right to know about."

Jumping into the growing controversy over Pentagon information policies, Symington suggested that Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara "take a further look at his own shop" before criticizing the press for publishing too much military information.

Symington called attention to a story carried by the Associated Press yesterday which

quoted an official Army publication as saying that U. S. military leaders have pinpointed 37 Soviet missile launching pads, and that the U.S.S.R. is believed to have 35 to 50 long-range rockets ready to fire.

Contradicts CIA

He said these data — "the most detailed that I have ever seen" — is at variance with information furnished the Senate by the Central Intelligence Agency in closed session.

Symington did not reveal what it was that Pentagon officials had deleted from the transcript of their testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, of which he is a member.

"Based on the contents of the lengthy passage deleted," he said, "it was obvious that this was done for public relations purposes only."

"So now we keep from the American people broad im-

portant policy problems they have the right to know about. At the same time, the Department of Defense itself releases detailed information about Russian military contrary to that presented to the Senate in classified hearings."

Data in Doubt

The Associated Press story said that the Russian missile data was published in the May issue of Military Review, a magazine published by the U. S. Army's Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kans. It said the article declared that the data was derived from unclassified material from "sources which are not necessarily accurate or complete."

Pentagon spokesmen said Military Review reprints articles from other military journals over the world, and that the one in question — while not labeled as such — actually largely was a compilation of press and magazine reports.

The AP contrasted the re-

ported 35 to 50 Russian missiles with an estimated 59 ready-to-shoot U. S. long-range missiles, including those on Polaris submarines. Symington and others declare that Russia has many more missiles than the United States.

Growing Controversy

The controversy over release of military information has been fanned recently by McNamara's drive to curb "leaks" and censor Pentagon officials' statements and strong support given him by Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Russell told the Senate Monday that it was "not inconceivable that we could destroy ourselves" by what is disclosed about U. S. defense forces. Earlier, he expressed contempt for "any man in politics who would be frightened by newspapers telling him they would attack him because he was not giving them intimate

Says

details about defense planning."

Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen (Ill.) was quoted yesterday as saying he knows of no instance where published information about the defense program has damaged national security. Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.) told the Associated Press in a separate interview that sometimes damaging information becomes public. Congress, Government officials and newsmen must share the blame, he said.

Russell's attack brought accusations from editors that he was trying to "smear newsmen." V. M. Newton Jr., managing editor of the Tampa, Fla., Tribune and chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic organization, wrote Russell denying his charges and calling them "extremely unfair and misleading." Aides of Russell said he did not plan to reply to the newspaper's letters.